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I acknowledge the stipulation agreed upon between us, at a period when the American flag was looked up to as a cover of a free and independent commerce by individuals of every nation; but in the progress of my voyage and its event, so very far from that flag being useful to any purpose of mine, that in India I was constrained to relinquish it entirely; and at the instance of my friends and by the exertion of their interest in that country, I was permitted as a special favor and even then at heavy expense to assume the French.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

*Yale University.*

*Rural Economy in New England at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century.* By PERCY WELLS BIDWELL. Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. 20. (New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. 1916. Pp. 158. \$2.00.)

It is with pleasure that we welcome this contribution to the economic and agricultural history of rural New England. For reasons needless to specify the features of New England's agricultural economy have been given scant attention by historians and economists. Aside from Weeden and McMaster, Flint's *Eighty Years of Progress*, Colman's *Agricultural Survey of Massachusetts*, Carver's summary in Bailey's *Cyclopedia of Agriculture*, a few monographs on colonial land tenure and related topics, and some fugitive government reports on specific agricultural industries, we have little or no careful writing on New England's agricultural development.

New England affords a rich field for such investigation: the sources of materials are especially fertile; the periods of development are very distinctly marked; and the characteristic agricultural industries either have established themselves with comparative permanence or have passed through all the stages from incipient struggle to successful enterprise to final decline and practical abandonment.

The author in his analysis of New England's rural economy recognizes three phases: (1) the self-sufficing stage that reached its best exemplification about the beginning of the nineteenth century; (2) the period of transition to commercial agriculture, stimulated by the growth of manufactures, which continued down to its interruption by the Civil War; and (3) the period of decline extending from the Civil War to the end of the century, accompanied by Western competition, abandonment of farms, emigra-

tion, and the decadence of agricultural production and rural population. At present the reviewer has no criticism of the analysis. This monograph deals with the first phase, limiting the field of study to the three states of southern New England. The author promises monographs to follow which will cover the second and third periods. With these at hand it will be possible to judge how well his historical analysis is supported by historical fact.

The monograph is divided into six chapters. The first four deal with the economic life of the people of the inland towns, the forms of industry, possible domestic and outside markets for products, facilities for transportation—in short, underlying economic motives of inland as compared with commercial towns of the same region and period. The two remaining chapters discuss the agricultural industry and the home and community life of inland New England.

The fundamental factor underlying the agricultural and community development up to 1810 was the market. With no outlet for the fruits of labor, necessarily division of labor, kind and quantity of products, size of farm, intensity of culture, and form of household economy and community life were built around a self-sufficing economy which no exhortation or outside influence could move. Given a market outlet for one or several products, and there is introduced the impelling force which overrides ignorance of agricultural methods, rural conservatism, cheap land and dear labor, frontier conditions and emigration. In short, the prime and moving influence, beside which all others are incidental and subsidiary in determining the form and course of agriculture, is the market for agricultural products.

In the opinion of the reviewer the author has proved his contention. It is surprising, but significant of the obtuseness of agricultural students and rural investigators, that the importance of this factor should have so long escaped notice. Any danger of overemphasis—and he stresses the point—will be more than offset by the constructive value of directing attention to this interpretation of the array of facts with which he supports his thesis.

The source material is varied and extensive; the monograph is well and carefully written; a well-chosen and helpful bibliography is appended. The monograph deserves the attention of agricultural teachers and economists.

ALEXANDER E. CANCE.

*Massachusetts Agricultural College.*